

THE HOUSES OF SEVILLE.—The number of excellent houses is immense, though few of the legends are remarkable for their architecture; but the pride of the Sevillians is their palace. A hundred thousand columns are said to decorate the courts of Seville, and I cannot conceive the number exaggerated. I was never weary with looking at them, with their marble columns and pavements, the pretty fountains and flowers in vases generally so fresh and so beautiful. In searching for private collections of paintings, I saw the interior of many houses belonging to nobles, members of the cortes, employes, and tradespeople, and they were always scrupulously clean and neat, and often handsomely furnished. The windows are invariably covered with iron lattices, which give a Moorish appearance to the houses. The walls are generally white-washed, but almost always quite fresh, and without a spot.—*Hoskins's Spain as it is.*

FIRE VARNISH—A NEW INVENTION.—The Paris correspondent of the *St. Louis Republic*, says,—"An important discovery is the fire varnish recently brought out by a Spaniard, Don Jose Guesada. It was first tried at Matanzas in the presence of the governor and city authorities, and succeeded to the admiration of everybody. It has since been tried at Madrid. Five small frame houses, covered with tar and turpentine, were erected in an open square. Two of these houses were covered with the varnish and the others were not. The latter were reduced to ashes almost as soon as they were set on fire, whereas the former, in spite of the tar and turpentine, remained perfectly uninjured to the end of the trial, which lasted two hours. The trial was the more severe, as the five houses were close together, and all of them were on fire in the inside, but the flames did not break forth at all from the varnished houses: besides this, in the midst of the conflagration, two gallons of some strong essence were thrown upon the varnished houses and they were immediately entirely enveloped in flames; but when the liquid was exhausted, the walls appeared perfectly intact as before."

INTELLECT DEVELOPED BY LABOUR.—Are labour and self-culture irreconcilable to each other? In the first place we have seen that a man, in the midst of labour, may and ought to give himself to the most important improvements, that he may cultivate his sense of justice, his benevolence, and the desire of perfection. Toil is the school for these high principles; and we have here a strong presumption that, in other respects, it does not necessarily blight the soul. Next we have seen that the most fruitful sources of truth and wisdom are not books, precious as they are, but experience and observation; and these belong to all conditions. It is another important consideration, that almost all labour demands intellectual activity, and is best carried on by those who invigorate their minds; so that the two interests, toil and self-culture, are friends to each other. It is mind, after all, which does the work of the world; so that the more there is of mind, the more work will be accomplished. A man, in proportion as he is intelligent, makes a given force accomplish a greater task, makes skill take the place of muscles, and with less labour gives a better product. Make men intelligent and they become inventive; they find shorter processes. Their knowledge of nature helps them to turn its laws to account, to understand the substances on which they work, and to seize on useful hints, which experience continually furnishes. It is among workmen that some of the most useful machines have been contrived. Spread education, and, as the history of this country shows, there will be no bounds to useful invention.—*Channing.*

HOUSES IN THE WEST INDIES.—As Jamaica houses are commonly built on one principle, I will briefly describe it. The furnished part of the house is all on the same level, forming what we should call the first-floor, the whole of the ground-floor being devoted to store-rooms and cellars. An arched passage open at each end leads through the house, beneath the dwelling apartments, from the road in front to the yard behind. A flight

of stone steps, with iron balustrades, on which run beautiful twining and creeping plants, such as the lovely crimson quamoelit, the wax-like boysa cornosa, and others, leads the visitor up to the front-door; and he is immediately ushered into a spacious hall, of the form of a cross, extending the whole length and breadth of the house. This large hall is characteristic of all Jamaica houses: it forms the principal sitting-room; and, from its shape, admits the cooling breeze to sweep through it, whenever there is a breath of air. The two square areas formed by one side of the cross are filled by bed-rooms; but with these exceptions, the whole of the sides and ends of the hall are either occupied by windows, or open, and furnished with jalousies.—*Spectator.*

NONCONFORMIST CLUBHOUSE IN LONDON.—The want of some place of meeting for specific objects apart from formal convocation, has induced the more active members of the Nonconformist body to take measures for the erection of a clubhouse. The front is to be arranged on the principle of a reputable clubhouse, such as the Reform or the Gresham—containing dining-rooms, reading-rooms, and rooms for extempore committees or private social parties. A second side is to be laid out in suites of chambers or offices for Nonconformist societies. At the back is to be a public hall, with seats for 1,500 or 2,000 persons, to be let out for public meetings during the week, and to be used on Sunday as a place of religious worship for the special accommodation of strangers in London. A capital of between 50,000*l.* and 60,000*l.* would be required, which it is proposed to raise in shares.

LAMP-LIGHTING BY ELECTRICITY.—A correspondent, "W. N.," not aware, apparently, that we long since made the same suggestion, reiterates the idea that the street-lamps of towns might be lit simultaneously by the electric current. The wire, as he remarks, in passing along would of course require to be supported by isolators where interrupted in passing each burner. In speaking of this idea some years ago, we suggested that, not only the lighting but the extinction of the jets might be simultaneously effected by the electric current, or at least, by electro-magnetism, one semi-rotation of the magnet shutting off the gas, and another letting it on; and, moreover, that a light sweeping apparatus, or slip of brush-work, might be made to rotate, one inside and another out, on the face of lamp glasses of a globular form, by the continued rotation of the same magnets, so as to clean the lamps, thus altogether dispensing with the heavy expense of lamp lighting and cleaning. The invention of the magnetic telegraph seems to prove these three latter operations, cleaning, and letting on and off the gas, to be possible with even less expense than ever, while the lighting could still be effected by the attachment of a battery, as so clearly instanced by the firing of gunpowder even across the British Channel. We suspect, however, that "the poor lamp-lighter" would rather be extenuated from the necessity of availing himself of the "ease and benefit," which we and our correspondent have thus in store for him.

TO INCREASE THE ILLUMINATING POWER OF GAS.—The paragraph on this subject, signed "C. C." (p. 776, *ante*), has excited a singular stir in various quarters. We shall be glad to hear whether or not the writer desires his name to be made known.

THE LATE FIRE AT MESSRS. COLLARD'S.—We have received some contradictory statements of circumstances connected with the building which was destroyed; but do not think it necessary to publish them. We have no evidence to justify the objection made by one correspondent to part of the construction.

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Carter	£1,057	0	0
Higgs and Case	1,044	0	0
Wood	1,032	0	0
Hill	1,039	0	0
Tames	996	0	0
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The first column is for the designs in full.
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J. Cooper, London	2,980	2,983	2,719
T. Haselgrove, Luton	2,979	2,915	2,539
W. Twelvetrees, Biggleswade	2,917	2,986	2,400
Smith, London	2,908	2,797	2,640
E. O. Williams, Luton	2,980	2,795	2,545
W. Higgs, London	2,947	2,783	2,569
C. B. Mills, Whittles	2,908	2,633	2,540
W. Parker, Thrapston (accepted)	2,496	2,417	2,157

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Scribbler" (the problem known as the Four squares is the fifth in the first book of Euclid), "Vigilant," "E. W. G." (will appear), "F. G." (some of the district surveyors do not take fees for ground-rents. They could enforce payment), "A. V.," "C. H.," "S. C." (will appear), "J. W." (thanks), "H. T. B." (declined with thanks), "A. Subscriber," "O.," "B.," "A. B." (it would depend entirely on the terms of the agreement), "B. J. W." (there are several stains used. Stevens's answers very well), "T. J. G.," "H. R." (we have already expressed an opinion), "E. F.," "W. A. P.," "J. B.," "J. P.," "H. R.," "A. & C.," "O. H.," "J. W.," "J. R.," "T. F. B.," "J. T. I.," "W. B. C.," "G. E. O.," "J. C.," "F. & B.," "Clericus."

"Books and Addresses."—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

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